

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

First-Class Mail and Periodicals
Service Standard Changes, 2021

Docket No. N2021-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING EXCUSING POSTAL SERVICE FROM
ANSWERING DFC/USPS-T3-3

(Issued May 10, 2021)

On May 7, 2021, the Commission appointed the undersigned as the Presiding Officer in Docket No. N2021-1.¹ The Commission tasked the Presiding Officer with managing the procedures in Docket No. N2021-1, including resolving discovery disputes. Order No. 5888 at 1-2.

On May 3, 2021, intervenor Douglas F. Carlson propounded the following interrogatory (labelled DFC/USPS-T3-3) on Postal Service witness Stephen B. Hagenstein:

Please provide quarterly service performance scores for the nation, as distinct from individual districts, from 1998 to the present.

See Douglas F. Carlson Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents to United States Postal Service Witness Stephen B. Hagenstein (DFC/USPS-T3-1–12), May 3, 2021. On May 6, 2021, the Postal Service moved to be excused from answering

¹ Order Designating Presiding Officer, May 7, 2021 (Order No. 5888).

the interrogatory.² The Postal Service responds that the interrogatory requests information that is burdensome to produce and beyond the scope of this proceeding and therefore not relevant to evaluate the Postal Service's proposed service changes for First-Class Mail and Periodicals. Motion at 1-2.

The Presiding Officer finds that some analysis of historical service performance would be relevant to the proceeding, and analysis of that performance would likely add to the Commission's consideration of the Postal Service's proposed service changes. However, quarterly service performance results since 1998 are well beyond the scope of what the Commission would consider in this docket. The Postal Service, likewise, need not reproduce information it has already filed with the Commission.

The Presiding Officer, therefore, takes official notice of the Postal Service's quarterly service reports, as are available on the Commission's website.³ The quarterly service performance reports, as they pertain to First-Class Mail and Periodicals, available at that link are incorporated into the record for Docket No. N2021-1.

The Postal Service is excused from interrogatory DFC/USPS-T3-3.

² Motion of the United States Postal Service to be Excused from Responding to Douglas F. Carlson's Interrogatory DFC/USPS-T3-3, May 6, 2021 (Motion).

³ Reports from FY 2012 to the present are available at <https://www.prc.gov/dockets/quarterly-performance> (accessed May 10, 2021).

RULING

1. The Motion of the United States Postal Service to be Excused from Responding to Douglas F. Carlson's Interrogatory DFC/USPS-T3-3, filed May 6, 2021, is granted.
2. The Presiding Officer takes official notice of the quarterly service performance reports available on the Commission's website, as described in the body of this ruling. Those reports are incorporated into the record for Docket No. N2021-1.

Christopher Laver
Presiding Officer